Message Text

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ACTION ITFE-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 ORM-02 DHA-02 VO-03 SCA-01 CIAE-00

INSE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 AID-05 SS-15 INR-07 NSAE-00

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P 131230Z NOV 75 FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7081 FT CHAFFEE PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 1860

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: SREF, GB

SUBJ: VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: LIBREVILLE 1794

1. FACED WITH CONTINUED INACCESSIBILITY OF FONMIN (PREOCCUPIED WITH SERIES OF HIGH-LEVEL VISITORS), RAISED REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT QUESTION NOVEMBER 13 WITH SECSTATE FOR FONAFFAIRS REKANGALT.

2.THOUGH LATTER HAD NOT SEEN AIDE MEMOIRE, HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH BACKGROUND TO ORIGINAL REQUEST FOR REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT IN GABON AND ECHOED PRESIDENT'S INSTINCTIVE REACTION (REFTEL) THAT GABONESE ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN REFUGEES WITH TECHNICAL SKILLS. LIKE PRESIDENT, HE DID NOT RULE OUT FISHING VILLAGE, BUT MADE CLEAR HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT GABON ALREADY HAS ENOUGH FISHERMEN AND THUS WOULD HAVE NO REAL INTEREST IN WELCOMING MORE. LIKE PRESIDENT, HE TOO PROMISED WE WOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN OUR AIDE MEMOIRE, BUT MADE NO TIME COMMITMENT WHEN I PRESSED FOR REPLY ON URGENT BASIS.

3. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK FORMAL GOG CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPONSE TO PROPOSAL FOR RESETTLEMENT OF REFUGEES IN

CHOERENT FISHING VILLAGE. GIVEN LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FROM BOTH PRESIDENT AND REKANGALT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE WE SHOULD FACE UP TO FACT THAT PROSPECTS ARE DIM AT BEST. UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, BELIEVE WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR IATF TO SEEK ALTERNATIVE FOR RESETTLEMENT OF FISHERMEN AND ADVISE US IF ANY REFUGEES WITH TECHNICAL QUALIFICATIONS MORE CLOSELY ATTUNED TO GABONESE ASPIRATIONS MIGHT STILL BE INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE RESETTLEMENT HERE. STEIGMAN

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, REFUGEES, FISHING INDUSTRY, OVEREMPLOYMENT

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 13 NOV 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

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